16.    (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the spreading sequence is selected to support transmissions over a communications channel, the apparatus further comprising means for determining the group of the available spreading sequences by first determining [[the]] a length based on the capacity of the communications channel and then assigning all the available spreading sequences having the length to the group.

17.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the selected spreading sequence comprises a sequence common with a portion from each of the codes from the block.

18.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the codes each comprises a Walsh code.

19.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein each of the available spreading sequences in the group is generated from a different block of codes, the apparatus further comprising means for identifying an available spreading sequence with the shortest length among all available spreading sequences, the selected spreading sequence being one of the spreading sequences from the group whose block of codes from which it is generated is not used to generate the identified spreading sequence.

20.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising means for spreading communications with the selected spreading sequence.

21.    (Currently Amended) A method of spread-spectrum communications, comprising:
    maintaining a plurality of spreading sequence assignments and a plurality of available spreading sequences each being orthogonal to the assigned spreading sequences; and
    selecting a spreading sequence from a group of the available spreading sequences having the same length, the selected spreading sequence being generated from a block of codes and being selected based on the number of the available spreading sequences that can be generated

using the same block of codes, wherein each of the available spreading sequences in the group is generated from a different block of codes, and wherein ~~the~~ a scheduler is further configured to select the spreading sequence having the lowest number of the available spreading sequences that can be generated using its respective block of codes.